

## Shuttle crew stows solar panel, plans trip home

◆ **Mission Update:** Applause broke out in Mission Control when the recalcitrant solar array glided into the retention box at 6:54 p.m. Monday. Space Shuttle Discovery astronauts Bob Curbeam and Christer Fuglesang guided the port overhead solar array wing neatly inside its blanket box during a 6-hour, 38-minute spacewalk.

The coordinated effort with flight controllers finished the retraction and set the stage for a spring shuttle mission, when the International Space Station's starboard overhead array will be similarly stowed. The arrays will be moved to the end of the port truss on STS-120 and redeployed.

Crew members aboard the shuttle-station complex praised the ground support team after latches along the array's two blanket boxes locked at 7:34 p.m. Fuglesang took pictures, including some of the P6 starboard solar wing set to be retracted in March. The photographs will assist in planning for that task.

Curbeam set a record as he made his fourth spacewalk of the mission — more than any astronaut has performed during a single shuttle flight — and his seventh in support of the station. Curbeam has a total of 45 hours, 34 minutes of spacewalking time.

That task complete, the crew turned its attention to getting ready for departure from the station. Discovery undocked from the station



Tuesday at 5:09 p.m. and is scheduled to land at the KSC Shuttle Landing Facility at 3:56 p.m. on Friday.

◆ **Santa Surprise:** Every year, the NASA News Center at KSC releases information about Santa Claus's connection to the center. Last year: "NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida has come to an agreement with the North Pole to permit Santa Claus and his reindeer exclusive use of the Shuttle Landing Facility on Christmas Eve.

"The jolly fellow plans to use the runway as a rest stop on his global gift-delivery run. Since Kennedy employees have never seen Santa during his past visits, they'll closely watch the runway in hopes of catching a glimpse of him this year.

"During Santa's brief stop at Kennedy on Christmas Eve, he hopes to take an up-close look at the facilities that will help return humans back to the moon and eventually on to Mars."

## Santa has KSC connection

What will be Santa's connection this year? Check the Web at <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/releases/index.html> as Dec. 25 approaches.

### ■ **Medical Clinics Holiday**

**Schedule** — The Launch Area Clinic (located in the MFF) and the Occupational Health Facility (OHF, M6-495) will be closed for the Christmas holidays Dec. 22 - Jan. 1. They will both reopen on Jan. 2. The Visitor Complex Clinic will be closed Dec. 25. Emergency medical services are available 24/7 by dialing 9-1-1 (from a cell phone, dial 867-7911).

### ■ **Identifying and Reporting Unsafe Conditions or Hazards**

— The easiest way to identify hazards is to pay attention to what is around you and look for conditions that are not safe or potentially hazardous, such as ripped or frayed carpet (a tripping hazard), a light switch missing its cover plate (an electrical shock hazard), and faded crosswalk paint (a potential employee injury).

Once you have identified an unsafe condition or hazard, report it to your supervisor and, if necessary, to the appropriate trouble-call organization for corrective action.

■ **Did You Know?** On this date in 1913, the first crossword puzzle was published in a supplement to the *New York World*.